

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 18-23 are pending in the application. The Examiner objected to the specification under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(d)(1). The Examiner rejected Claims 1-7 and 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 9-11, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brittan (U.S. Publication 2002/0184030) in view of Silverman (U.S. Patent 5,652,828). The Examiner has rejected Claims 4-7, 12-15 and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brittan in view of Silverman, and further in view of Lu (U.S. Patent 5,819,260).

Please amend the specification as set forth herein. Please amend Claims 1, 9 and 18 as set forth herein. No new matter has been added.

Regarding the objection to the specification under §1.75(d)(1), the Examiner stated that “computer program device readable by a machine” does not have proper antecedent basis in the specification. The specification has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for claims 18-23.

Based on at least the foregoing, is respectfully requested that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-7 and 9-15 under §101, the Examiner states that these claims are directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite that synthesized speech is output by the speech synthesizer. Each of these claims is directed to a speech synthesizer, which classifies as another statutory category as required. In addition, each of these claims is directed to synthesized speech, which is of course output from the speech synthesizer, again being tied to another statutory category. Still further, the methods of these claim does in fact transform underlying subject matter to a different state. For example, the method transforms text to speech; the method transforms un-paused speech output into speech

output containing variable length pauses. Thus, the claims pass both prongs of the Bilski test.

Based on at least the foregoing, is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1-7 and 9-15 under §101 be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-3, 9-11, 18 and 19 under §103(a), the Examiner alleges that Brittan in view of Silverman renders the claims unpatentable. Brittan discloses a speech synthesis apparatus and method; and, Silverman discloses automated voice synthesis employing enhanced prosodic treatment of text, spelling of text and rate of annunciation.

Claims 1, 9 and 18 have been amended to recite, in part, that after an uncommon words is determined to exist in a text, marking the text to identify the uncommon word. The concept of analyzing the text and marking the text itself prior to any speech processing greatly simplifies and enables flexibility in how the text is finally processed by a Text-To-Speech (TTS) system.

Brittan inserts pauses in front of certain words (paragraph [0065]) and at the end of dubious utterances (paragraph [0090]). These words and utterances for which pauses ore inserted in front of and at the end of are determined during the TTS processing itself. The actual text is not modified by the processes of Brittan.

Silverman discloses a system that inserts pauses during the TTS processing. Silverman is also deficient in that the actual text is not modified by the processes of Silverman.

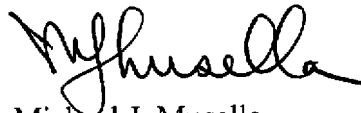
Based on at least the foregoing, is respectfully requested that the rejections of Claims 1-3, 9-11, 18 and 19 under §103(a) be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 1, 9 and 18 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-7, 10-15 and 19-23, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent

claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2-7, 10-15 and 19-23 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 18-23, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Musella", written in a cursive style.

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